

Greetings!

As I reflect back on an ITAA year I enjoyed very much, I am happy to report a number of accomplishments:

- First and foremost, our 2016 conference was “one of the best I have attended.” I heard that from so many of you. As of the last Council meeting on Friday of that week, we were not dealing with any conference-related issues that needed to be resolved. We applauded Kathy Mullet and Joan Ellis several times during the week, and they deserve yet another standing ovation as they are working to clean up the remaining details.
- We operationalized an organized giving structure with policies in place to help elected Treasurers and our Executive Director guide conversations with our members and corporate sponsors who have a desire to reward our best work each year.
- After collectively hundreds of hours of work, we have advanced the Accreditation Commission forward in many ways:
 - The Accreditation Standards are almost complete; the final touches should be in place before the new year begins
 - We have a name – sounds simple, but it wasn’t!
 - We have begun the incorporation process
 - We are searching for an Executive Director
 - We have identified three programs to pilot the accreditation process in 2017
- We have officially adopted a new format for showcasing juried design scholarship after numerous positive reviews in the two-year pilot of the mounted exhibit
- The Legacy group executed their second annual fund-raiser that puts dollars in the coffers of several awards that needed a bit of a boost.
- The Culture and Industry Learning Tour to Ecuador was a great success.
- And, as is true in every Council year, we managed the business of the organization, put out the occasional fire, and enjoyed much rich discussion about the forward movement of a dynamic organization in a dynamic field.



We also say a very heart-felt THANK YOU! to our outgoing Council members. Jane Hegland was a fabulous VP of Planning, with a strong talent for keeping the organization looking forward and staying focused on both our mission and on the necessary evolution that needs to be considered continuously. I am excited that Jane will continue on Council as the President-elect. This transition between these two offices combined with her active participation on the Accreditation Council positions her to be the right leader at the right time.

Kathy Mullet will continue in a second term as ITAA Treasurer. Kathy has been instrumental in developing the aforementioned new gift policies and keeping her in the position for three more years will enable necessary tweaks by a leader who has an innate understanding of the history. Her recent leadership with the conference is also a bonus in this particular Council role.

And we must say farewell to Andy Reilly, a fabulous VP of Scholarship. I have come to not only know Andy during the past two years, but to deeply appreciate his frank forthrightness! He has mentored

my own leadership path in ways he will never know. He has such a talent for cutting to the chase! I hope we see much more of him in ITAA leadership.

Missy Bye was a great President! During this past year, her Counselor year, I came to appreciate her even more than I did before. Every time I called her, she answered the phone and gave me excellent advice. In every discussion, she brought practical reasoning. Her ability to look at the big picture with an eye to the implications of every decision have been a big part of the successful endeavors ITAA has pursued in recent years.

We also welcome some great new faces to Council in January. Byoungho Jin joins us as the Vice President of Planning. Byoungho's visionary talent and ability to move an agenda forward are going to serve the organization well.

Youn-Kyung Kim is our new Vice President of Scholarship, and what a good choice! I have known Youn for a long time. Her accomplishments are perfect for this role. She is a strong researcher and a good teacher as well as a great mentor and role model. Her committees will thrive and our conferences will benefit under her leadership.

Joe Hancock will be our inaugural Vice President of Conferences. In addition to responsibilities assigned by Council, he will be defining and refining this office. He brings extensive leadership from other organizations. When we can combine this level of thought and leadership diversity, the organization becomes stronger and more relevant.

As I said at the conference, I have very much enjoyed being your president this past year. It has definitely been a career highlight! Thank you for the opportunity to serve an organization I love in this capacity!

Tammy